

THE CHAMPION

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ARCADIA, FLORIDA, THURSDAY AFTERNOON, FEBRUARY 13, 1908.

No. 7

AT THE STATE FAIR

A DESCRIPTION OF SOME INTERESTING FEATURES

The beginning of the second week of the State Fair finds the booths nearly all filled and things in good shape, with a hopeful, cheerful, feeling in the air. The different fair commissioners have been heretofore too busy to do much breathing except involuntary until one has tried it, it is hard to realize how many things are to be seen in arranging a county exhibit. The best display, getting the prizes ticketed, numbered and recorded. Then somebody must always be on hand to explain to visitors.

DeSoto was among the first of the counties to get into show shape with Ed Scott as leader and Wm. Couch, W. W. Bateman and C. Pearce as assistants the work went speedily forward. Mr. Couch, with the Gilchrist pineapples, is presiding over an exhibit far in advance of any made by other counties as to quite leave in the dim distance all others in the competition. In OUR estimation DeSoto leads in the horticultural display, but perhaps Manatee, Polk and Lee would object to my saying so. We really have a magnificent display. That made by Mr. Pearce, who is competing for the largest display of products from one farm, is great, and Mr. Pearce is in his element. Says he has had a chance to talk all he wanted to, without hindrance. I notice that he is quite hoarse this morning but no doubt when the day gets warmer his voice will improve as the crowds gather. He is generally surrounded by an appreciative audience. His display includes so much of woman's work that I think Mrs. Pearce deserves great credit for the number and variety of canned and preserved goods that are a prominent part of his display. Mr. Pearce has only one competitor on the grounds, and feels hopeful of carrying off that \$100 premium.

Speaking of the Woman's part of our exhibit reminds me that DeSoto does not display many articles of feminine handiwork. Mrs. B. Roesch, Mrs. E. H. Morgan, Mrs. S. D. Smoke, of Ft. Garden, send some nice fancy work. Mrs. Curry, of Punta Gorda, displays palmetto hats, baskets, etc. and Mrs. J. L. Sauls some lovely lawn work. Mrs. N. Barco, of Arcadia, has four very lovely pieces of hand made lace, and Mrs. Windall, of Brownville, sent a quilt made about 100 years ago. At the most observed and commented upon exhibit in the Woman's Building is the seventy-pound fruit cake and mammoth loaf of light bread sent by Mrs. Smith, of Punta Gorda. Mrs. Smith sent a list of ingredients and the number of pounds used of each and many ladies stop to read and comment. Eight dozen eggs! Think of that at winter prices! The Woman's Building misses the large display sent last year by Orange, Marion, Polk, Pasco and other counties, that are this year only represented by a small exhibit of fancy work which the lady manager of the building has grouped in a part of the Hillsboro-

ough space. The art exhibit in this building will much of it be remembered by those who visited the fair last year, as it is with a few exceptions the same.

In the educational building, Miss Clem Hampton, and an able corps of assistants, is still busy putting in place a large and excellent display of the work of our schools. Superintendent Russell, of Hernando county thinks his booth and exhibit is sure to win the biggest prize, but he may not guess right.

I have not yet had time to visit the live stock departments, nor the range. These will come later. Also the races. I understand there are many fine horses here to participate, and the grand stand has on several occasions been well packed. It is estimated that fully 10,000 people participated in the confetti battle Saturday night on the range. The air ship—one of the principal range attractions, met an accident, and burned up one night last week. The aeronaut barely escaped with his life. The loss is variously placed at from seven hundred to \$36,000. We are however promised another airship flight this week as the aeronaut has still one left.

The crowds have so far been small, owing, no doubt, to the rather threatening weather, and the general understanding that the first week is mainly preparatory. We think the crowds are coming all right, and, as I said at first, are hopeful.

Fire at Wauchula.

One of the worst fires in the history of Wauchula occurred last night.

The fire originated in the bakery of Frank Davenport and was discovered at about 12:05 a. m. this morning. The fire quickly spread to the buildings occupied by Prevatt & Swindall, thence to the building occupied by A. C. Clavel, the A. & T. Millinery Co., a vacant building owned by Mr. Edmondoz, the Connor building occupied by T. W. Whitehurst's pool room, the Pittman furniture store, the Ideal Millinery store, Norman's cool drink stand, Parker's restaurant and Keller's boot and shoe repair shop. It was by hard work the Peace River Hotel building and Dr. Wright's residence were saved. The New Hotel building suffered a loss of between \$500 and \$1,000.

Messrs. Swindall & Prevatt lost about \$6,000 with \$3,000 insurance; Mr. Clavel lost about \$7,500 in buildings and stock and saved about \$1,000 worth of goods, and carried no insurance. Mr. Pittman carried about a \$3,000 stock and saved about half of it and had a \$1,000 insurance. Mr. L. A. Taylor, who owned the buildings occupied by Pittman, the Ideal Millinery Store, Norman and the Parker restaurant, estimates his loss at \$5,000 with \$1,700 insurance. The Ideal Millinery store and Parker saved most of their goods, and Norman lost about \$250. The Peace River Hotel building was on fire and for a time it looked as though it would go, but heroic efforts saved it. The loss to this building is between \$500 and \$1,000.

Norman is moving his cool drink stand to the opera house block.

Mr. A. C. Clavel will probably move into the east room of the Peace River Hotel building.—*Wauchula Advocate.*

News of the Week In DeSoto County

As Reported by The Champion's
Excellent Corps of Correspondents
A Resume of Current Events

Gardner Gossip.

Mr. Ingram was visiting in Gardner Sunday

H. P. Johnston was up to see his folks also

Ulric Langford made a call on his lady love here Sunday

Mr. McDonald returned from Stackhouses mill and has been very sick

J. L. Hampton, Jesse Bryan and Hermon Coker returned from their visit in the lake country Sunday and report a jolly good time

Mrs. R. W. McCorquodale came Sunday from Ft. Meade and is with the home folks, Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Coker, for quite a stay probably

Miss Michael Coker left us Sunday to attend school at Madison, Fla. Many were the friends who with sad hearts accompanied her to the station to bid her "good-bye" for four long months. Hated to see her go, but we are glad to know that D. V. she will return. True her mother misses her much and there are others who greatly miss her

Mr. and Mrs. Geo. McCorquodale were visiting in the country Sunday

Jonathan Coker visited Arcadia and vicinity Sunday

Oranges are again moving from Gardner

Prof. J. S. Coker was with the home folks Sunday

Uncle Arthur Albritton was in town yesterday

Raymond Davis was in town yesterday. He came around to the shop and had a wagon wheel repaired by Waudell and his able helper in their substantial way

Mrs. Almond and children visited at Zolfo Sunday

We have Sunday School every Sunday at 3 p. m. Prayer meeting Wednesday night at 6:30. Preaching by Rev. R. Y. Walden on third Sunday and Saturday before. Wish every body would attend. You are cordially invited

Mrs. Fussell is visiting in the country

Daniel Coker and Miss Lottie have returned from a trip to Crewsville

Commissioner Holzendorf is in town today

Eddie Douglas was on our side of the river this a. m.

Cephe Granger came in this morning to have wagon repair work done

Uncle Dan Coker was on our streets this a. m.

Miss Myra Coker took the home folks on quite a surprise this a. m. by slipping in from out east where she has been attending school will remain at home till Sunday

Feb. 11 HARD HEAD.

Lily Locals.

Rev. Henderson filled his regular monthly appointment here Sunday.

Mrs. V. O. Fussell and children, of Gardner, are visiting relatives here this week.

R. B. Gause and family went to New Zion Sunday.

Mrs. J. T. Stephens is visiting relatives at Tura.

W. H. Platt and W. A. Hull went to Arcadia today.

Thomas Lane was doing business at Zolfo Saturday.

Jerome Howell, of Pine Level, attended church here Sunday. He was accompanied by his cousin, Miss Kate Blanton, of Plant City.

J. B. Sellers and son, Gladstone, of Pine Level, passed through our community Sunday afternoon.

J. R. Durrance is getting off his oranges this week.

Miss Bessie Robinson visited friends at Pine Level Saturday and Sunday.

The Stewarts are moving their saw mill in here and expect to be sawing in a few days.

News and Views From Brownville

DEAR CHAMPION: The many fine rains have put the farmers along with their crops. The frost th 24th and 25th of January killed some vegetables. Sometimes the early bird does that other thing.

Brownville is getting up quite a reputation. The spring fights have commenced. Don't call the old man a liar. If you do you may expect a black eye.

Our packing house is running in full force. The Baldwin Brothers have just finished shipping their crop of oranges and grape fruit.

Our townsman, Mr. Chris. C. Pearce got up quite a collection, nine wagon loads, for the fair. Among other things he had two varieties of cotton. The stalk of long staple had 250 bolls on it and the stalk of short staple was good.

Captain Orr, who is from Mississippi and was a cotton planter there says that there could good money be made raising cotton in DeSoto county. This is a grand grand county and should be developed rapidly, there are so many advantages and the resources are so great.

Right here we would like to enter a protest against the money of the people being wasted as it is.

1st. What was the use in the people voting on the question of fair appropriation if the five men constituting the board of county commissioners had the right to appropriate the people's money? The writer voted for the appropriation and is in favor of making a full demonstration of the resources of this grand county, but let's do it legally, do it according to law.

2nd. If they had the right to take the people's money to defray their expenses to Jacksonville ostensibly to investigate the oil road and spend approximately \$100 of the people's money, would not they have had the same right to have done the act a few months sooner and have taken in the Jamestown Exposition in their frolic and gone and investigated the cement mines of Michigan, thereby spending \$1000 of the people's money?

If the executive officers of the county do not comply with the laws of the State where will it end?

You gentlemen of the board of county commissioners must not think you have exalted POWER AND AUTHORITY because you were elected county legislators.

Mrs. Carlton, nee Miss Daisy Platt, visited her aunt and cousins

(Continued on Local Page)

HIGH SCHOOL NOTES

TEACHERS INSTITUTE MEETS IN ARCADIA

The teachers of DeSoto county will meet in Arcadia Friday, February 14, for a two days convention. Sessions will be held morning and afternoon of both Friday and Saturday, and on Friday evening at 7:30 o'clock the pupils and teachers of the Music and Expression Departments will entertain in the auditorium in honor of the visiting teachers. The recital will be followed by an informal reception.

All the above exercises the patrons, pupils and friends of the school are cordially invited to attend. No charges made for admission to the recital.

Sickness is still quite general among the pupils. We are sorry to report that some of our number are yet quite ill. Some who were out last week on account of sickness have returned, and we trust all may soon be in their places.

The best grades in music last week were made by Cecil Lamb, Maude Smith and Elsie Williamson; second best grades by Emily Smith, Zoella King, Margaret Chollar and Nellie Peebles; "cants", Gerda Holmer, Emily Smith, Ruth Holmer, Cora Whidden, Kate Carlton, Gladys Thomas, Winnie Thomas.

Again, we call attention to the need of a library of which we have the nucleus. Within a few days we shall make an order for thirty-five dollars' worth of books and we would be glad to have a number of liberal donations in addition to this amount. Our pupils in the higher grades make good use of the books we have and receive much benefit therefrom. Let us have your amount to add to the above or some good volumes that you have used and are now willing to let others use.

HONOR ROLL

First Grade. Willie Waldron, Bruce Smith, Edwin Wey, Mattie Langford, Blanche Connell, Nellie Holmer, Susie Green, Eva Ford, Susie Stonebreaker, Nell Steele, Lula Brown, Florida Houstoun, Annie McClenithan, Eugene Wey, Edwin Parker, Junior Pelham, Joe Adkinson, Alex Hendry, Elbert Myer, Vernon Hollingsworth, Oswald Ralls

Second Grade. Clara Blount, Sibbie Pelham, Edwin Holister, Curtis Williams, Forrest Weaver, Julia Livingston, Mary Bailey

Third Grade. George Cox, Robert Hollingsworth, Samuel Smith, Herbert Gamage, Fred Powell, Emilie Grunholzer, Marjorie Clay, Bernice Albritton, Abbi Anderson, Irene Edwards, Maud Maud Worley

Fourth Grade. Bert Higginbotham, Ursula Green, Oakley Lanier, John Grunholzer, Harry Blount, Newton Forrest

Fifth Grade. Frank Powell, Ralph Havis, Doyle Clay, Lillian Wood, Lillian Cox, Radford Edwards

Sixth Grade. Sophy May Smith, Irma McBride

Seventh Grade. Gladys Bryan, Marie Martin, Walter Draughon, George Ford, Ed Davis, Malcolm Smith, O. H. Langford, Leewright Whidden

Eighth Grade. Lee Hall, Lillie Draughon, Leslie Bryan, Martha Livingston

Ninth Grade. Upshur Quinby

Tenth Grade. Wilbur Carlton

Eleventh Grade. Bernard Noble

Have you had a kindness shown?
Pass it on;
'Twas not given for you alone,
Pass it on:
Let it travel down the years,
Let it wipe another's tears,
Till in heaven the deed appears,
Pass it on. —Selected.